

# BLM WH&B NEWS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2005

Contact: Debbie Collins

918.621.4145

918.625.5292

## Wild Horse & Burro Adoption Heading to Navasota!

*Still dreaming of adopting your own Wild Horse or Burro? Turn that dream into a reality!*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is heading to the Grimes County Fairgrounds on Mar 10-12. The three-day event will feature approximately 100 spectacular animals available for adoption on Mar 11 and 12.

Preview of all animals available for adoption begins Thursday, Mar 10 from 4 – 6 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. the remainder of the weekend. The competitive bid adoption begins on Friday, Mar 11, at 10 a.m. Following the initial competitive bid on Friday morning, walkup adoptions will continue throughout the weekend until noon on Saturday, Mar 12. The minimum adoption fee is \$125, per animal to qualified adopters.

The majority of the weanlings available for adoption were born in captivity on BLM contracted pastures in Oklahoma and Kansas, and the studs and mares were gathered from Nevada herds. Approximately 15 burros will be available for adoption.

“The animals are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness, and strong sense of loyalty to their caretaker,” says Bob Mitchell, Wild Horse and Burro Manager.

To qualify to adopt at the event, bidders must be at least 18 years of age, with no record of animal abuse. In addition, adopters must have specific facilities and can adopt no more than four animals. All animals **must be loaded** in a covered trailer with solid walls and floors – no drop ramp trailers.

This event presents an opportunity for the general public to participate in the adoption process and share a part of their American heritage. All of the wild horses and burros are gathered from many different herd management areas throughout California, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. The BLM has placed more than 203,000 horses in approved homes across the country.

For more information on the Navasota adoption, call **866-4-Mustangs**, or visit [www.wildhorseandburro.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.gov).

**Directions to Grimes County Fairgrounds: Take Hwy 6 to Hwy 90 exit(Anderson/Brenham exit) and turn east. Go approximately 2 miles and turn left onto FM 3455. Follow signs to fairgrounds.**

**Media Activities:**

- Excellent photo opportunities starting **Thursday** morning, 8 a.m. Watch wild horses arrive to the site and wranglers unload them for the adoption event.
- Follow an adopter through the process from registration to loading their adopted animal into a trailer for the ride home.
- Photograph wild horses and burros available for adoption or talk with past adopters about their experience with the program.
- Meet BLM mascots – Chester and Radar.
- Interview BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialists about the history of the program, and find out what qualifies as a good home.

*The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. With the passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, the Bureau gained the responsibility to care for wild horses and burros on these lands in harmony with other natural resources. When an over-population of wild horses and burros exists on these public lands, some animals are removed and offered to the general public for adoption.*